

Fulbright Criticizes Ike's U-2 Admission

Senator Says Even Claim That Russian Stole
Plane Might Have Been Better

Washington, May 29 (A—Sen-
ator Fulbright (D., Ark.) today
criticized President Eisenhower's
assumption of responsibility for
the U-2 spy plane incident.

He said even a claim that the
plane "was stolen by the Rus-
sians" might have been better
than the President's admission.

And the chairman of the Senate
Foreign Relations Committee
voiced grave doubts as to the wis-
dom of summit conferences be-
tween heads of state as a means
for solving international problems.

Appearing on a television pro-
gram (NBC—Meet the Press),
Fulbright declined to forecast the
final conclusions his committee
will reach in its just-begun inquiry
into the U-2 affair and the subse-
quent collapse of the Paris sum-
mit conference.

Only One Witness Heard

The Arkansasian pointed out that
only one witness has been heard
so far. But he did say the first
day of the hearings brought out
an unfortunate lack of discussion
and coordination in the issuing
of the several statements about
the plane.

While he refrained from putting
the blame for this alleged lack of
coordination directly on the Pres-
ident, Fulbright added that gener-
ally "the head of state is pri-
marily responsible for such co-
ordination within his Administra-
tion."

Fulbright agreed with Eisen-

hower's estimate that espionage,
however necessary, is "distasteful
and nasty business" and suggested
the Chief Executive should have
followed historical and traditional
practice and refused to admit per-
sonal involvement in it.

Cites Other Positions

An interviewer suggested that
if President Eisenhower had re-
fused to accept responsibility it
would have put the blame on Allen
Dulles, head of the Central Intel-
ligence Agency which presumably
ordered the spy flight. Fulbright
said that wouldn't necessarily
have been an impossible choice.
But he added that any one of
several other positions might have
been taken—even to charging that
the Russians had somehow ma-
nipulated the whole affair them-
selves.

While Fulbright said he thought
summit conferences should be
held only to ratify agreements
reached by foreign ministers, he
approved of goodwill trips such as
Eisenhower has been making.
These, he noted, are not intended
to negotiate and settle problems.

In this connection, he said he
saw no reason why Eisenhower
should not go to Japan, as he
plans to do, despite the strong op-
position of some Japanese groups
to the visit. He added, however,
that the President should not go
"if he won't get a proper recep-
tion."